

# **Environmental Assessment:**

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# **Chapter 1. Introduction**

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The Nevada Land Conservancy nominated the parcels for acquisition in 2009 during Round 11 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Process. After successful completion of the screening and evaluation process involving the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the nomination was approved for funding by the Secretary of the Interior on October 21, 2010.

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to acquire 720 acres consisting of eight county assessors' parcels in northern Washoe and Humboldt Counties, Nevada (Case File # N-89559). The parcels are located in two specific areas, the Little High Rock Canyon area (Woodruff Camp) and the Black Rock Desert (Double Hot Springs and Casey Hot Springs), and are surrounded by public land (Figure 1). The adjacent public land is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Surprise Field Office (SFO) located in Cedarville, California and the Black Rock Field Office (BRFO), Winnemucca District (WD), located in Winnemucca, Nevada. Ownership of the land is currently vested in the name of the Estill Ranches, LLC, a family owned Nevada Corporation.

The subject lands are needed to support riparian plant and animal communities and to permit Federal protection to be extended to pre-historic and historic cultural resources. The acreage also provides potential habitat for one (1) bird that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified as a Candidate Species; and eleven (11) species of birds and mammals that have been designated as BLM Sensitive Species. Acquisition would facilitate recreational access as well as preventing the parcels from being developed or subdivided and sold to a number of different owners, which could possibly restrict public access and disrupt wildlife habitats.

## **1.1. Identifying Information:**

### **SNPLMA Round 11 Acquisition**

#### **1.1.1. Location of Proposed Action:**

All that certain real property situate in the County of Washoe, State of Nevada, described as follows:

##### **PARCEL 1 [Little High Rock]**

TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 23 EAST M.D.B.&M.

Section 30: Lots 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 25 and 26

Section 31: Lot 4

APN: 066-190-05

All that real property situate in the County of Humboldt, State of Nevada, described as follows:

##### **PARCEL 2 [Casey Hot Springs]**

TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 16: Lots 8, 10, 15; W1/2 SE1/4

Section 21 : N1/2 NE1/4

APNs: 001-521-04, 06, 07, 08, 09

PARCEL 3 [*Double Hot Springs*]

TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 4: Lot 4 of the NW1/4

Section 5: Lot 1 of the NE1/4

APN: 001-521-02

TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 32: SE1/4 SE1/4

APN: 001-481-05

### **1.1.2. Name and Location of Preparing Office:**

Lead Office - Surprise Field Office LLCAN07000

Winnemucca Field Office

### **1.1.3. Applicant Name:**

Estill Ranches, LLC

## **1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:**

The purpose for the action is to analyze an approved acquisition nomination of 720 acres and associated water rights and resources (400 acres within the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails NCA (NCA) & 320 acres outside, but adjacent to the NCA) to conserve and enhance cultural resources, plant, fish and wildlife habitat, as well as to facilitate public access.

The need for the action is to respond to and process the approved nomination in accordance with and as implemented through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as amended (SNPLMA) consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA) and in compliance with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

### **1.2.1. Decision to be Made**

The Field Managers will decide whether to proceed with the proposed acquisition or to terminate the acquisition process.

## **1.3. Conformance**

The proposed action is in conformance with the *Surprise Resource Management Plan* adopted in April 2008 (Surprise RMP) and the *Resource Management Plan for Black Rock Desert-High*

*Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness, and other Contiguous Lands in Nevada* adopted in July 2004 (herein referred to as the NCA RMP).

The Surprise RMP (Section 2.7.1.3) states: “BLM would consolidate BLM-administered lands by acquiring in-holdings and other lands (or interests in lands). Lands would be acquired because they contain sensitive resources, have high resource or recreational value, provide or improve public access, or facilitate effective management. Lands would be managed in accordance with the reason of acquisition”.

The NCA RMP (LAND-7) states: “BLM may acquire private lands or property interests within the planning area that will provide public benefits. Land acquisitions may occur through exchange proposed by private owners where no disposal of public land occurs within the NCA or Wilderness; through purchase from willing landowners or their agents; or through donation. Acquired lands would be subject to applicable sections of the RMP”.

## **1.4. Relationship to Other Laws, Treaties, Executive Orders; Regulations; and Policies, Plans, and Protocols**

Acquisition of high priority riparian and other wildlife habitat, and recreational and cultural resource sites in the Little High Rock Canyon area and Black Rock NCA would be consistent with other laws, treaties, and executive orders; regulations; and policies, plans, and protocols; including, but not limited to:

### **Laws, Treaties and Executive Orders**

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq.)
- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA)
- Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000, as amended (FLTFA)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended, and Executive Order 13186
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA)
- Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as amended (SNPLMA)

### **Regulations**

- Innocent Landowners Standards for Conducting All Appropriate Inquiries (40 CFR Part 312)
- Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Developed by the Sierra Front-Northwestern Nevada and the Northeastern California-Northwestern Nevada Resource Advisory Councils (43 CFR 4180.2c)

### **Policies, Plans and Protocols**

- BLM Policy for Management of Riparian-Wetland Areas (BLM Manual 1737)
- BLM Policy for Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessments (H-2101-04)

- BLM Policy for Special Status Species Management (BLM Manual 6840)
- Department of the Interior (DOI), 602 Departmental Manual, Chapter 2 (602 DM 2)
- Management Issues for Lands Acquired by Purchase (Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2005-062)
- Nevada Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan (Neel, 1999)
- Resource Management Plan for Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness, and other Contiguous Lands in Nevada
- Surprise Resource Management Plan

Supplemental Authorities to Consider in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents (Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2009-030 and Change 1)

## **1.5. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:**

The nomination for acquisition of the Round 11 property proposed to be acquired went through the SNPLMA public notification process. This included a 45-day public comment period that ended April 28, 2010 on the preliminary acquisition recommendation. Public comment was solicited via the SNPLMA and NV Land Conservancy websites.

The list of lands included in the Estill Round 11 nomination package were presented to, and reviewed by, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (2011) and the Humboldt County Board of County Commissioners (2011). Following public hearings each County Commission voted to support acquisition of the nominated parcels located within their respective counties. After considering the benefits and costs of the proposed acquisition to their counties, both the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners and the Humboldt County Board of County Commissions adopted positions supporting the proposed acquisition.

Final recommendation by the SNPLMA executive committee composed of the State or Regional Directors for the BLM, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was made in 2010 after consideration of all comments received.

After reviewing the nomination, public comments, and executive committee recommendation, the Secretary of the Interior approved funding for the acquisition project on October 21, 2010.

### **1.5.1. Issues Identified**

During internal and external scoping, comments were received from BLM resource specialists, the public and other governmental agencies. External scoping issues was obtained from outreach NVLC conducted via their website and presentations to the Humboldt and Washoe County Commissioners. Issues identified included:

1. How would cultural resources at Double Hot Springs, Casey Hot Springs and Woodruff Camp be affected?

2. How would recreational use at Double Hot be managed?
3. Would geothermal activities be permitted on the land proposed to be acquired? If so, how would that occur and be managed?
4. Do lands acquired within the NCA remain in-holdings or automatically become part of the NCA?
5. Would grazing be permitted on all or portions of land proposed to be acquired? If so, how would that occur and be managed?

Would the proposed acquisition remove land from the tax rolls depriving Washoe and Humboldt Counties of substantial property tax revenues at a time of local government budget shortfalls?

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## **Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives**

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## 2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

All of the land proposed to be acquired is located in Nevada; 320 acres are located in Washoe County and 400 acres in Humboldt County. BLM would acquire all 720 acres under the proposed action.

The scope of this analysis is the entire 720 acres (400 acres within the NCA; 320 acres outside the NCA) as summarized below:

- Woodruff Camp (outside NCA) = 320.0 acres
- Double Hot Springs (within NCA) = 120.0 acres
- Casey Hot Springs (within NCA) = 280.0 acres

Total = 720.0 acres

The proposed acquisition lands are located in the following three townships (for complete legal descriptions of the parcels see Appendix A):

T. 36 N.: R.26 E.;

T. 37 N.: R. 26 E.;

T. 39 N.: R. 23 E.

Ownership of the land is currently vested in the name of the Estill Ranches, LLC, a family owned Nevada Corporation.

### 2.1.1. Woodruff Camp – 320.0 Acres (Figure 2)

The Woodruff Camp parcel is located at the western end of Little High Rock Canyon in northern Washoe County approximately 30 miles north of Gerlach, Nevada.

If acquired, this parcel would be managed under guidance from the Surprise RMP and applicable laws and regulations.

This parcel is located within the boundaries of the Bare Allotment administered by SFO. Much of the parcel is fenced, but the fence is currently in disrepair and is not functional to control livestock. Until the fence is maintained this parcel would continue to be grazed as part of the Hog Mountain Pasture consistent with the grazing management practices for the pasture and allotment. If the parcel were acquired, it is anticipated that the fences would be repaired and livestock grazing would be a secondary use to cultural resources, recreation access and riparian values. Acquisition of this parcel identified would not change the areas identified for grazing or the forage allocations within the Bare Allotment.

### **2.1.2. Double Hot and Casey Hot Springs – 400.0 Acres (Figure 3)**

The Double Hot and Casey Hot Springs parcels proposed for acquisition in the Black Rock NCA are situated on the southwestern slope of the Black Rock Range southwest of the Pahute Peak Wilderness approximately 35 miles northeast of Gerlach. The parcels lie across and adjacent to the Applegate Emigrant Trail. Double Hot Springs is just east of the parcel, but a hot water spring brook flows across the parcel. Casey Hot Springs consists of several alkaline wet and semi-wet meadows associated with low yield thermal springs that lie primarily east of the parcel. A 40 acre private parcel not included in the proposed acquisition lies adjacent to the northwestern portion of the Casey parcel.

If acquired, the Black Rock NCA parcels would be subject to and would be managed in accordance with the *Resource Management Plan for Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness, and other Contiguous Lands in Nevada* (NCA RMP). A site specific Management Plan or Activity Plan would be initiated after acceptance of title, on the parcel proposed for acquisition, to address issues and concerns related to the use of the Double Hot Springs area by recreationists.

The Double Hot and Casey parcels are located within the BRFO's Soldier Meadows Allotment, specifically within the South Use Area and are unfenced. Acquisition of the two parcels identified under this alternative would not change the areas identified for grazing or the forage allocations within the Soldier Meadows Allotment.

## **2.2. No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative BLM would not acquire the designated Estill Ranches parcels. The 720.0 acres would remain under private ownership. The lands would be available for development in accordance with the Washoe County and Humboldt County Regional Master Plans.

## **Chapter 3. Affected Environment:**

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A variety of laws, regulations, and policy directives mandate that the effects of a proposed action and alternative(s) on certain environmental elements be considered. These are referred to as Supplemental Authorities. In addition, there are other resources that require impact analysis relative to the proposed action and alternative. Not all of the Supplemental Authorities and other resources will be present, or if they are present, may not be affected by the proposed action and alternative (Table 1).

The proposed action has been analyzed to assess direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the Supplemental Authorities and other resources. Those Supplemental Authorities and other resources marked as “not present” in Table 1 are not present within or adjacent to the proposed acquisition lands. Those Supplemental Authorities and other resources marked as “present not affected” may be present within or adjacent to the proposed acquisition parcels, but would not be impacted by the proposed action. Those Supplemental Authorities marked as “present affected” may be found within or adjacent to the proposed acquisition parcels and may be impacted by the proposed action.

Supplemental Authorities and other resources discussed further in this Environmental Assessment (EA) are identified in the column marked “reference section,” with the appropriate section listed for the affected environment and environmental consequences analysis. Supplemental authorities and other resources which contain information in the “comments” reflect any negative findings and are not discussed further in this EA.

If the proposed acquisition is completed, the acquired parcels would be evaluated for wilderness characteristics as required under the provisions of FLPMA.

**Table 3.1. -Supplemental Authorities and Other Resources**

Supplemental Authority	Not Present	Present Not Affected	Present Affected	Reference Section	Comments
Air Quality		X		N/A	The proposed change of ownership from private to public would have no impact on air quality.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	X			N/A	The parcels proposed to be acquired are not located in or near any ACECs
Cultural Resources			X	3.1.1, 4.1	
Environmental Justice	X			N/A	There would be no environmental justice issues associated with the proposed change from private to public ownership.

Floodplains	X			N/A	The parcels proposed to be acquired are not located in any FEMA-designated floodplains.
Invasive, Nonnative Species (Noxious Weeds)			X	3.1.2, 4.2	
Global Climate Change	X				The proposed change of ownership from private to public would have no impact on global climate change.
Migratory Birds			X	3.1.3, 4.3	
Native American Religious Concerns		X		N/A	The proposed change of ownership from private to public would have no impact on Native American religious concerns.
Prime or Unique Farmlands	X			N/A	The parcels proposed to be acquired are not located in or near any prime or unique farmlands.
Threatened and Endangered Species			X	3.1.4, 4.4	The Woodruff parcel contains habitat for the greater sage-grouse, a candidate species under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act.
Wastes (Hazardous or Solid)	X			N/A	There has been hazardous waste observed at the subject parcels



Water Quality (Surface and Ground)		X		N/A	The proposed change of ownership from private to public would have no direct impact on surface of ground water quality. Changes in management activities on the acquired parcels could result in unknown future impacts on water quality which are outside the scope of the acquisition.
Wetlands and Riparian Zones			X	3.1.5, 4.5	
Wild and Scenic Rivers	X				The parcels proposed to be acquired are not located in or near any wild and/or scenic rivers.
Wilderness		X			The Woodruff parcel is adjacent to the Little High Rock Canyon wilderness, but acquisition of the parcel by BLM would not affect the wilderness. Casey Hot Spring and Double Hot Springs parcels are south of the Pahute Peak wilderness and wholly within the NCA.

### 3.1. Supplemental Authorities

#### 3.1.1. Cultural Resources

The parcels proposed for acquisition contain high cultural resource values. The parcels at Double Hot Springs and Casey Hot Springs are located directly along the route of the historic Applegate Trail which is part of the National Historic Trails System. The pristine nature of the Applegate Trail through this part of Nevada was the primary impetus for the establishment of the Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (NCA). In the mid-nineteenth century thousands of travelers emigrating to Oregon and California passed along

this route and at least in the case of Double Hot Springs camped at the springs to take advantage of the presence of water and forage along an arid stretch of the Trail.

Cultural resource inventory is not required for the proposed acquisition. Assessment of effects on cultural resources is not required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (NHPA) when property is conveyed from private into public ownership.

### **3.1.2. Invasive, Nonnative Species (Noxious Weeds)**

Weeds are defined in this EA as plants that are exotic or non-native plants. Non-native weeds have the ability to out-compete and replace native plants, often creating their own monotypic plant community. Uncontrolled noxious weed infestations result in decreases of native vegetation diversity, reductions in forage and wildlife habitat, and declines in agricultural crop values. Once exotic weeds become established it is extremely difficult to eradicate them and bring back the native communities that have been displaced.

A brief ocular survey was completed for noxious weeds during field visits in 2011. Bull thistle was detected in small amounts within proposed parcels as well as burr buttercup (within heavily disturbed areas). Locally, riparian zones are often invaded by thistle species and *brassicaceae* species and can dominate riparian zones if allowed to spread. Common upland invasive species found within the subject parcels include cheatgrass, hoary cress, and bull thistle.

### **3.1.3. Migratory Birds**

A migratory bird is a bird that has a seasonal and somewhat predictable pattern of movement. All birds in the acquisition area are considered migratory birds except for the Gallinaceous birds, e.g. (California quail (*Callipepla californicus*), greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), chukar (*Alectoris chukar*) etc., and raptors. Migratory birds are protected and managed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 *et. seq.*) and Executive Order 13186. Under the MBTA nests (nests with eggs or young) of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed. Executive Order 13186 directs federal agencies to promote the conservation of migratory bird populations.

The proposed action area is characterized by Salt desert shrub, Wyoming, and basin big sagebrush; and low sagebrush vegetation types that provide foraging areas and cover diversity for migratory birds. Wetland/riparian areas including those associated with streams, springs and seeps are interspersed within these upland areas that also provide habitat for nesting and migrating bird species. There are approximately 50 bird species known to inhabit the area of the acquisition. It's possible that up to 100 bird species actually utilize the area when seasonal migrants are also considered.

Appendix D provides a representative list of birds that are typically associated with the habitats found in the Casey Hot springs and Double Hot springs parcels.

### **3.1.4. Threatened and Endangered Species**

Greater Sage-grouse – The sage-grouse is a sagebrush obligate species and is strictly associated with sagebrush/grasslands. Sage-grouse may eat a variety of grasses, forbs, and insects during the

breeding and brooding seasons. They feed almost entirely on sagebrush during the winter months, selecting shrubs with high protein levels (Paige and Ritter, 1999).

The Woodruff Camp parcel lies within the Massacre Population Management Unit (PMU) and is within sage-grouse habitat. The parcel is within habitat identified by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as key for the species and within habitat identified as occupied by sage-grouse year-long.

The Woodruff Camp parcel is within five miles of two known leks (communal breeding grounds), but the parcel contains limited nesting habitat. However, the wet meadows associated with on and off-parcel springs provide summer brooding habitat characterized by relatively moist conditions and many succulent forbs and insects in or adjacent to sagebrush cover. Site visits confirmed use by sage-grouse during the winter and summer brooding periods.

The Double Hot and Casey parcels are not within existing or potential greater sage-grouse habitat.

### **3.1.5. Wetlands and Riparian Zones**

The Woodruff Camp parcel contains an estimated twenty (20) acres of wet and semi-wet meadows associated with five (5) spring sources (three within the parcel and two immediately adjacent). Little High Rock Creek runs through the parcel. During wet years when the upstream Woodruff Reservoir holds water, the stream channel and associated floodplain contain an additional one mile of wetland vegetation. Current riparian conditions for Little High Rock Creek appear to be properly functioning with healthy meadows on the subject parcel.

The Double Hot and Casey Hot springs parcels contain springs with associated wet and semi-wet alkaline meadow areas. The main hot springs at Double Hot are on public lands just east of the proposed acquisition parcel, but immediately flow from the spring sources onto the proposed acquisition parcel. Additionally, there are several low-flow thermal springs on the parcel. The springs support a total of thirty-six (36) acres wetland habitat on the parcel and an additional twenty (20) acres of primarily dry, alkaline meadows on public land. The main outflow of the hot springs have been diverted into a ditch and pipes that supply water to a metal bathing trough used by visitors to the site. The Casey parcels contain six spring sources with associated small alkaline/saline meadows that cover approximately thirty-five (35) acres. There are an additional forty (40) acres of meadows on the adjacent public land. The wetland communities appear to be in properly functioning condition.

## **3.2. Additional Affected Resources**

### **3.2.1. Geothermal Resources**

There are no potential geothermal resources associated with the Woodruff parcel.

The Casey and Double Hot parcels include thermal springs which indicate geothermal resources are present. The thermal activity at the surface on the Casey parcel is associated with water temperatures up to twenty (20) degrees above background and low-flows. The Double Hot Springs parcel contains several spring sources that discharge more than 10 gallons per minute of 150+ degree F. water.

### **3.2.2. Lands and Realty**

The lands proposed to be acquired are located in mountainous terrain with a number of springs serving as water sources for brooks flowing on public lands downstream (Woodruff parcel). The lands on the Double Hot and Casey Springs parcels are located near the floor of the Black Rock Desert basin with thermal springs flowing from mounded areas out onto near barren playas. Roads, two- tracks, and trails traverse private lands connecting adjacent portions of the public lands.

Currently, the Casey and Double Hot private parcels are inholdings within the NCA. The Woodruff parcel is adjacent to the Little High Rock Canyon Wilderness and the NCA.

### **3.2.3. Rangeland Management**

The Woodruff Camp proposed acquisition parcel is located within the Bare Allotment under the administration of the SFO. Most of the parcel is fenced, but the fencing is in disrepair and currently not functional for livestock control. The parcel is currently grazed as part of the Hog Mountain pasture. This pasture is used yearly each summer.

The Double Hot and Casey parcels are located within the BRFO's Soldier Meadows Allotment, specifically within the winter pasture. This pasture is used annually by cattle between January 15 and March 31.

It is recognized that livestock grazing in the vicinity of the acquired lands may be modified in the future during the development of grazing management or other activity plans that would include objectives and actions required to meet an appropriate mix of multiple-uses consistent with the applicable Land Use Plans (LUPs).

### **3.2.4. Recreation**

Recreation within these parcels is generally associated with hunting, rock hounding, photography, wildlife viewing and use of the hot springs in the Double Hot and Casey Hot springs parcels. Although the exact number of visitor days at these parcels is not known, these areas receive use throughout the year by members of the public due to the high resource values that are present within these parcels, especially during the summer months and fall when higher levels of recreation occurs locally. Although thousands of visitors attend the Burning Man festival on the Black Rock Desert each year, active management is required of the festival organizers to prevent attendees from visiting the Double Hot or Casey springs areas.

### **3.2.5. Social and Economic Values**

The parcels proposed to be acquired are located in a remote, sparsely populated area of northern Washoe County, and northwest Humboldt County, Nevada. There are two unincorporated communities nearby in Washoe County -Gerlach and Empire – but no nearby unincorporated communities in Humboldt County.

Empire is a U.S. Gypsum, company-owned community associated with a gypsum mine and processing plant that closed in January 2011. Residents of Empire must be employees or dependents of employees of the company. As a result of the recent plant closing there are few people living in Empire.

Gerlach is a residential community with mixed land use ownership. The 350 individual residents are the primary owners.

The population of this area of northern Washoe County is approximately 500 people. The main sources of income for the area are agriculture, recreation and tourism.

The only significant development near the parcels proposed for acquisition is the Soldier Meadows Ranch, with a resident population less than 10.

The private parcels are currently on the property tax roll of either Washoe or Humboldt County, but because of their isolation and low intensity land usage, pay only nominal amounts of property taxes. For the 2009-2010 property tax year, total property taxes collected were \$107.55: \$63.63 to Humboldt County and \$43.92 to Washoe County.

### 3.2.6. Special Status Species

Special Status species include federally listed, proposed, or candidate species (section 3.1.4 above), as well as State of Nevada protected species and BLM Sensitive species. Nevada BLM policy is to provide State of Nevada Listed species and Nevada BLM Sensitive species with the same level of protection as provided for Candidate species in BLM Manual 6840.06C, so as to “ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need for the species to become listed.”

No on-the-ground field surveys or research was conducted for Special Status plant or animal species. However, the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP) database, the Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO) point-count survey database and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) Diversity database (June, 2008) were reviewed for the possible presence of Special Status plant or animal species. Based on this search, a total of six BLM Sensitive animal species were confirmed within one mile of the parcels to be acquired. Several other BLM Special Status species, including plants may occur in the acquisition area based on habitat characteristics, although not confirmed.

Table 2 lists the Special Status animal species that are known to occur or may occur in the vicinity of the proposed action. The springs could also support populations of spring snails that have not been identified. The acquisition areas may also support special status plants although no formal survey has been conducted.

**Table 3.2. Special Status Animal Species**

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Nevada BLM Sensitive Bird Species	
Burrowing Owl*	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Brewer's sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
Sage thrasher *	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>
Greater sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
Nevada BLM Sensitive Mammal Species	
California bighorn sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis californiana</i>
Prebles shrew*	<i>Sorex preblei</i>
Pygmy rabbit*	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>
Bats*	Several species, grouped together

**Note**

\* Indicates species that may occur in the area but have not been confirmed.

**Nevada BLM Sensitive Species**

**Burrowing Owl:** Burrowing owls could occur in the area. Abandoned mammal burrows, (such as those created by badgers and rodents) in open areas can provide nesting and brooding habitat. Nesting in areas with limited vegetation (such as recently burned sites or areas trampled by livestock) provides the owls with unobstructed views for predator detection around the burrows. Healthy range lands and riparian areas provide favorable habitat for many of the owls' prey species.

**Golden Eagle:** Golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Nevada's Golden eagle population is thought to be stable to declining. . There are Golden eagle nesting territories within one mile of the Woodruff parcel. They are primarily cliff nesters and would utilize the parcel areas to forage for prey species such as jackrabbits and other small mammals. There is no suitable nesting habitat and very limited foraging habitat for golden eagles on Casey or Double Hot parcels.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** Loggerhead shrikes tend to favor arid, open country with just a few perches or lookouts. They nest in isolated trees and large shrubs and feed mainly on small vertebrates and insects. The species is well distributed across the state (Neel, 1999), but populations are declining. This species has been documented in the acquisition area.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Adult peregrine falcons have been documented as being in the area. The birds could nest in the surrounding cliffs although no active nests have recently been identified. The parcels provide foraging habitat particularly during spring and fall migrations.

**Brewer's sparrow:** The distribution of Brewer's sparrows is closely aligned with that of sagebrush, but it is also commonly found in salt desert scrub. This species may utilize all three parcels. Although the species is widely distributed across Nevada, the population has undergone a pronounced decline in recent decades (Floyd et. Al., 2007).

**Sage thrasher:** The sage thrasher would more likely be found in the Woodruff Camp parcel because of its preference of undisturbed patches of tall sagebrush. However, it can also be found in greasewood and bitterbrush habitats such as those in the Casey Hot Springs and Double Hot springs parcels.

**Greater Sage-grouse:** The Woodruff Camp parcel lies within the Massacre Population Management Unit (PMU) for sage grouse. The parcel provides habitat for year 'round occupancy of the birds. The Double Hot Springs and Casey Hot Springs do not provide greater sage-grouse habitat.

**California Bighorn Sheep:** California bighorn sheep are common in Little High Rock Canyon just east of the Woodruff parcel. During the summer when water in the western end of the canyon is lacking sheep do utilize springs on the Woodruff parcel for water. There is no potential habitat for California bighorn sheep on the Casey or Double Hot springs parcels.

**Preble's shrew:** It is possible that this species is present on the Woodruff parcel. There is no potential habitat on the Double Hot or Casey springs parcels. This species occupies marshy areas, such as creeks bordered by willows and other brushy plants.

**Pygmy Rabbit:** In the Great Basin, the pygmy rabbit is typically restricted to the sagebrush-grass complex. A dietary study of pygmy rabbits showed that they are dependent on sagebrush year round. Sagebrush was eaten throughout the year at 51% of the diet in summer and 99% in the winter. They also showed a preference for grasses and to lesser extent forbs in the summer (Green and Flinders, 1980). Pygmy rabbits are found in a variety of vegetation types that include big sagebrush and friable soils suitable for creating their burrow system. There has been no inventory for pygmy rabbits on the subject parcels and no sightings have ever been documented. High quality habitat for the pygmy rabbit would be restricted to sagebrush dominated habitats with low to moderate slope and loamy soils conducive to digging. There is no potential for pygmy rabbits on the Double Hot or Casey parcels. There is limited potential habitat on the Woodruff parcel and no rabbits or sign was seen during site visits during 2011.

**Bats:** Several species of bats may use the parcels, primarily for foraging. Roosting areas are common within the acquisition areas due to the presence of abundant rock outcrops and cliffs. Most bats in Nevada are year-round residents. In general, bats eat a wide variety of insects and arthropods during the warmer seasons and hibernate in underground structures during the cooler seasons. Bats commonly roost in caves, mines, outcrops, buildings, trees and under bridges. Bats thrive where the plant communities are healthy enough to support a large population of insect prey.

### 3.2.7. Vegetation

Vegetation within the Woodruff parcel is typical of mid-elevation Great Basin sage-steppe and spring meadow communities. Upland vegetation is characterized by sagebrush species including basin big sagebrush, Wyoming sagebrush and Lahontan sagebrush and perennial bunchgrass species such as bottlebrush squirrel-tail, Thurber's needlegrass, and Sandburg's bluegrass. Riparian vegetation is associated with the water resources that exist within the parcel and are primarily composed of rushes, sedges, and grasses. Woody riparian vegetation is not found on the parcel.

The vegetation associated with the Casey and Double Hot parcels is typical for a valley bottom saline/alkaline salt desert shrub communities and associated spring fed meadows. Upland vegetation is characterized by greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*), fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), and winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*). Small acreages of plant associations of Intermountain playas, Arid West emergent marsh, and Inter-mountain basins mixed salt desert scrub are also present. Plants in these associations including cattle saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), spinescale saltbush (*Atriplex spinifera*), yellow rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), spiny hopsage (*Grayia spinosa*), various graminoids, rushes and sedges, and the alkaline tolerant rushes, sedges and grasses including salt grass, alkali bulrush, and alkali grass create a diversity of habitats that can be utilized by various animals

There are no trees on any of the parcels proposed for acquisition.

### 3.2.8. Wildlife Resources

The proposed action area is characterized by Wyoming and basin big sagebrush; low sagebrush, and salt desert shrub vegetation types. These areas are interspersed with ephemeral, intermittent and perennial drainage areas, wet meadow sites associated with seeps and springs, and dry meadow sites on upland areas. None of the riparian areas contain woody riparian vegetation.

The heterogeneity of habitats created by the interface between riparian and sagebrush/mountain brush habitats provides habitat for numerous bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species. Mammal species are typical of those found in the Great Basin ecosystem and include several species of rabbits and rodents, coyotes, bobcats, bats, and a few large ungulates such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and California bighorn sheep.

**Mule deer** – The subject parcels are within NDOW hunt unit 012 (Woodruff Camp) and 034 (Double Hot and Casey hot springs), respectively. A portion of the acquisition area contains mule deer habitat (Woodruff Camp). Mule deer in these areas migrate seasonally along elevation gradients. Elevations above 7,000 ft. are generally only accessible during the late spring to late fall and are classified as summer habitat. Deer use occurs year round in mid elevations from 5,000 to 7,000 ft. The Woodruff parcel falls into this category. Aside from winter months, habitat below 5,000 ft. receives little use by mule deer as conditions are generally too dry, with the exception of the agricultural areas that see deer use most of the year. The Casey and Double Hot springs parcels are not considered mule deer habitat.

**Pronghorn antelope** –All of the acquisition area contains potential pronghorn habitat. Like mule deer, pronghorn also migrate seasonally along elevation gradients. Pronghorn occupy the Woodruff parcel year ‘round, and the Casey and Double Hot Spring parcels primarily in the winter and spring.

### 3.2.9. Wild Horses

The Woodruff Camp parcel lies within the Fox-Hog Herd Management Area (HMA) that is managed by the SFO. The Double Hot and Casey Hot springs parcels do not lie within any HMA. Wild horses forage primarily on grasses and grass-like plants and congregate around riparian-wetland zones during the dry summer months for the green forage and water resources associated with these areas. No burros exist in or adjacent to any of the proposed parcels.



# **Chapter 4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

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## 4.1. Cultural Resources

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on Cultural Resources because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to increase protection of Cultural Resources, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated. Acquisition of the parcels would extend federal protection to both historic and prehistoric resources listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under the Proposed Action the BLM would have responsibility to manage the cultural resources present within the acquired parcels. The Double Hot Springs and Casey Hot Springs would become part of the NCA. Management strategies would be established through the preparation of a management plan that would include opportunities for public input.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to manage or protect cultural resources on the affected parcels.

## 4.2. Invasive, Nonnative Species (Noxious Weeds)

*Proposed Action:* BLM would have the ability to treat noxious weeds when located without having to enter into a cooperative agreement with the landowner. The BLM has already completed a programmatic noxious weed EA (EA # CA-370-04-05) and would have the ability to treat weed infestations when they are still small and have not crossed ecological thresholds. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve upland and riparian vegetation communities throughout the area, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to treat weed infestations without entering into a cooperative agreement with the landowner. Weed infestations, if they occur, could become large and cross ecological thresholds, threatening wildlife and riparian habitat, and potentially dispersing onto adjacent public lands.

## 4.3. Migratory Birds

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on migratory bird species because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve habitats for migratory species, including riparian habitats throughout the area, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to manage migratory bird habitat on private lands.

## 4.4. Threatened and Endangered Species

*Proposed Action:* The only species that could reasonably be expected to be impacted by the acquisitions is the greater sage-grouse, a candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on greater sage-grouse because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve habitats for sage-grouse, including summer and winter habitats, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to manage or improve greater sage-grouse habitats on private lands.

## 4.5. Wetlands and Riparian Zones

*Proposed Action:* Public acquisition of the proposed lands within the Woodruff Camp, Double Hot Springs, and Casey Hot Springs Parcels would provide opportunities for BLM management actions to improve or maintain the wetland and riparian habitat conditions.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to implement rangeland management practices to maintain wetland and riparian habitat on the proposed lands.

## 4.6. Geothermal Resources

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the Woodruff parcel would have no impact on geothermal resources or any potential future development because no geothermal resources are known from this area. The Double Hot and Casey Hot Springs parcels are proposed for acquisition into the Black Rock NCA. These parcels would be subject to and would be managed in accordance with the NCA RMP. Given the Black Rock NCA is closed to geothermal leasing, acquisition of the Casey and Double Hot Springs parcels would eliminate the potential for future opportunities to develop these resources.

*No Action Alternative:* The opportunity for future development of geothermal resources on the Casey and Double Hot Springs parcels would be retained. However the likelihood that such development would occur is considered small because these parcels are surrounded by public lands managed with emphasis on conservation rather than development. Any development would be constrained by the small size of the private parcels and the relative difficulty of transporting power or hot fluids across adjacent public lands.

## 4.7. Lands and Realty

*Proposed Action:* The acquisition would transfer private in-holdings located in sensitive ecological areas into public ownership and management. Acquiring the Woodruff parcel would not make the acquired land part of the NCA or the wilderness. Parcels within the NCA would

automatically become part of the NCA and would be managed in accordance with the NCA RMP. Land uses incompatible with the management of habitat for species protection and enhancement such as geothermal development would no longer be possible on currently private lands in sensitive, riparian areas.

*No Action Alternative:* The lands proposed for acquisition and transfer to public ownership would remain in private ownership. Roads on private parcels would be subject to closure by the land owner regardless of impacts on access to nearby public lands. Development could occur on the private lands subject only to local building and planning requirements. Sensitive habitat could be damaged by new construction. The public would be greatly limited in its ability to influence or guide future land uses on the private lands. The ability to develop geothermal resources would be retained subject to constraints discussed above.

## 4.8. Rangeland Management

*Proposed Action:* The addition of 720 acres to the Bare and Soldier Meadows allotments due to conversion from private to Federal ownership would increase options for improved rangeland management on important riparian habitats. As part of the term grazing permit renewal and NEPA process, the BLM would evaluate the carrying capacity of the newly acquired lands and make necessary changes in permitted grazing use in consultation and coordination with the interested publics, as appropriate to effectively manage riparian resources and wildlife habitat.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative the BLM would not consider riparian and other resources associated with the Woodruff, Casey and Double Hot Springs parcels when adjusting livestock management on the Bare and Soldier Meadows allotments.

## 4.9. Recreation

*Proposed Action:*

The Proposed Action would increase recreational opportunities as public access would be maintained through currently private lands as a result of acquiring these parcels. The BLM would have the opportunity to evaluate recreational use and potential issues such as improper disposal of waste, OHV use, and camping and implement Best Management Practices (BMP) to protect sensitive resources. Additionally the BLM would have the opportunity to increase recreational opportunities for the public through actions consistent with the applicable RMP's including developing facilities and campsites, if needed.

*No Action Alternative:*

Under the No Action Alternative the proposed lands would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to manage recreational activities. This would continue to lead to improper disposal of human waste, OHV use that damages sensitive habitats and camping in sensitive areas. Recreational opportunities would be reduced compared to the proposed action due to the BLM not being able to implement BMP's to protect and preserve important biological and cultural resources. If private landowners decide to restrict public access from these parcels in the future, public use and enjoyment of the resources and values would be reduced.

## 4.10. Social and Economic Values

*Proposed Action:* Public acquisition of the currently private lands would remove the currently private parcels from the property tax rolls of Washoe and Humboldt Counties thereby reducing the amount of taxes collected from these isolated lands by approximately \$107.55 in property taxes. The loss of property taxes could be offset in part by Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from the Department of the Interior.

The lifestyle of the local northern Washoe County residents would not change. Although tourism is expected to increase regionally, no appreciable increase in tourism or associated expenditures would be expected due to this acquisition. Therefore, the proposed action is not expected to increase employment or income in the tourism or service sectors.

*No Action Alternative:* Adoption of the No Action Alternative would result in this acreage remaining under private ownership. Public access and recreational use of the property could be closed by the private landowner, and private use of the property would be governed by Washoe and Humboldt Counties. Both counties would continue to collect property taxes on the 720 acres instead of receiving PILT payments from the Department of the Interior.

## 4.11. Special Status Species

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on Special Status Species because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve habitats for Special Status Species, including riparian habitats throughout the area, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:* Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity to manage Special Status species habitat on private lands.

## 4.12. Vegetation

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on vegetation resources because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve upland and riparian vegetation communities throughout the area, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:*

Under the No Action Alternative, the parcels would not be acquired and the BLM would not have the opportunity improve vegetation communities on private lands.

## 4.13. Wildlife Resources

*Proposed Action:* The land acquisition would provide opportunities for the BLM to manage terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats under the provisions of multiple uses as designated in FLPMA and to consider lands actions and any methods deemed necessary to mitigate the effects on wildlife habitat as designated under NEPA and other federal laws and regulations. This would provide for public lands management of wildlife habitat. In addition, Federal ownership of riparian and upland habitat would help to ensure long-term protection of important habitat for the benefit of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. Overall, the acquisition would help to conserve, protect and enhance wildlife habitat. BLM would have the opportunity to implement grazing management systems designed to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat, as deemed necessary.

*No Action Alternative:* Adoption of the No Action Alternative would result in this acreage remaining under private ownership and BLM would lose the opportunity to manage terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats under the provisions of multiple uses as designated in FLPMA. Nor would the BLM be able to propose and analyze actions and any methods deemed necessary to mitigate adverse effects on wildlife habitat as part of the NEPA process and to comply with other Federal laws and regulations.

## 4.14. Wild Horses

*Proposed Action:* Acquisition of the private lands would have no direct or indirect short-term impacts on wild horses because no changes in on-the-ground management would occur as a result of the acquisition. Over the long-term, the potential exists to improve the acquired parcels, including upland vegetative communities and riparian area throughout the area, as authorizations for uses and permit applications are evaluated and decisions implemented with multiple use considerations and the requirements of federal laws, regulations and policies for protection of resources incorporated.

*No Action Alternative:*

Adoption of the No Action Alternative would result in this acreage remaining under private ownership and BLM would lose the opportunity to manage these parcels under the provisions of multiple uses as designated in FLPMA. Nor would the BLM be able to propose and analyze actions and any methods deemed necessary to mitigate negative impacts that may be occurring on affected resources as part of the NEPA process and to comply with other Federal laws and regulations.

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# **Chapter 5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS ANALYSIS**

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The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement NEPA defines a cumulative impact as: “The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions.” Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

The assessment area for this project is comprised of the Soldier Meadows allotment administered by the Black Rock Field Office and the Bare and Massacre Mountain Grazing Allotments administered by the Surprise Field Office (Figure 4).

## **5.1. Past and Present Actions**

Economic activities in the assessment area have historically included:

- irrigated agriculture;
- livestock grazing on both private and public lands;
- recreational activities including wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, camping, and off-highway vehicle use;
- transportation infrastructure including railways and highways;
- and public utilities including electrical transmission lines.

The town of Gerlach is located just outside the assessment area. That unincorporated community has and continues to provide housing and limited services for a population of several hundred residents to thousands of visitors who travel through the town to reach other parts of Washoe County, nearby portions of Pershing and Humboldt Counties, northeastern California and southern Oregon. Economic activity in the town has historically been associated with tourism, public sector functions (education, road maintenance, and law enforcement), and services for the railroad, agriculture including livestock grazing, energy and mining industries.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired nearly 1,283 acres of private land in 2010 under Round 8 of SNPLMA. This acquisition included lands in the in Little High Rock Canyon near Woodruff Camp and the Hardin City area near Double Hot Springs.

## **5.2. Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions (RFFAs)**

Past and present actions discussed above are expected to continue into the foreseeable future, although the relative intensity of these actions could vary depending on economic and other factors. Population could increase, but at a slower rate than overall growth in Washoe County. The demographic group expected to show the most growth is expected to be retirees. Tourism is expected to continue to increase in the region and will result in greater need for tourist related services within the assessment area (Winnemucca RMP AMS, 2005).

The energy sector is expected to be increasingly active over the next several years. An energy corridor is proposed to be adjacent to an existing Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power transmission line as part of the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement 2008 (Energy Corridor PEIS). Geothermal exploration activities on existing leases

in the area will continue and may, at some point in the future, result in the development of geothermal, electric power, generation facilities.

### **5.3. Cumulative Impacts to Affected Resources**

Impacts associated with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are generally created by ground or vegetation-disturbing activities that effect natural and cultural resources in various ways. Of particular concern is the accumulation of these impacts over time. This section of the EA considers the nature of the cumulative effect and analyzes the degree to which the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives contribute to the collective impact.

#### **Proposed Action**

Under the proposed action, BLM would manage the parcels acquired in the Black Rock NCA in accordance with the existing NCA RMP. Woodruff Camp would be managed subject to the Surprise RMP.

Acquisition of the proposed parcels would provide BLM with opportunities to manage all of the resources identified in this EA. Identification and treatment of invasive, nonnative species would be possible as part of the Winnemucca and Surprise BLM noxious weed control programs. The proposed action would also allow BLM to manage cultural resources, recreation uses, habitat for threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, the greater sage-grouse, special status species, wild horses and other wildlife resources, and to manage water quality of springs and streams located on the acquired lands. The acquisition would continue a regional trend of decreasing private ownership as landowners voluntarily sell their lands to federal land management agencies.

#### **No Action Alternative**

The lands proposed for acquisition would remain private. Therefore, there would be no opportunities for the BLM to manage habitat and water quality, nor implement noxious weed control on private land. This trend results in improved public access, slight decreases in tax revenues to the affected counties and decreased need for services provided by state and local government.

Past and present actions would likely continue and possibly increase. New private development would also be permissible under planning and building ordinances of Washoe and Humboldt Counties. Over time it is possible that there would be impacts to not only the private lands but also to the adjacent public lands within the assessment area.

# **Chapter 6. MITIGATION AND MONITORING**

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Monitoring of the acquired lands would be in accordance with overall management and monitoring incorporated into existing Land Use Plans. The acquired lands would be managed in accordance with the NCA and Surprise RMPs.

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## **Chapter 7. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:**

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Nevada Department of Wildlife, Winnemucca NV

Humboldt County Planning Department, Winnemucca, NV

Humboldt County Assessor, Winnemucca, NV

Humboldt County Board of County Commissioners, Winnemucca, NV

Washoe County Assessor, Reno, NV

Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, Reno, NV

Washoe County Department of Parks and Recreation, Reno, NV

Washoe County Department of Community Development, Reno, NV

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Roger Farschon Social and Economic Values/Maps/Threatened and Endangered Species/Special Status Species/Wildlife Resource/Fisheries/Wetlands and Riparian Zones/Vegetation and Soils

Steve Surian & Melanie Mirati Wild Horse and Burro

Ken Loda Geology and Minerals

Fred Holzel Wastes (Hazardous or Solid)

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John McCann Wetlands and Riparian Zones

Nancy Spencer-Morris Wildlife/ Threatened and Endangered/Special Status

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Cory Roegner Recreation/Wilderness Study Areas/Wilderness

Scott Soletti Migratory Bird Species/Invasive, Nonnative Species (Noxious Weeds)

Steven Surian

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## **Chapter 9. REFERENCES**

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## Appendix A. —Avian Species Typically Associated With Habitat Types Found in the Casey Hot Springs and Double Hot Springs Parcels

American kestrel ( <i>Falco sparverius</i> )
Black-throated sparrow ( <i>Amphispiza bilineata</i> )
Brewer's blackbird ( <i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i> )
Brewer's sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri</i> ) *
California quail ( <i>Callipepla californica</i> )
Common nighthawk ( <i>Chordeiles minor</i> )
Common poorwill ( <i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i> )
Golden Eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> ) *
Gray flycatcher ( <i>Epidonax wrightii</i> )
Green-tailed towhee ( <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i> )
Horned lark ( <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> )
Killdeer ( <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> )
Lark sparrow ( <i>Chondestes grammacus</i> )
Loggerhead shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )*
Mourning dove ( <i>Zenaida macroura</i> )
Prairie falcon ( <i>Falco mexicanus</i> )
Red-tailed hawk ( <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i> )
Red-winged blackbird ( <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> )
Rock wren ( <i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i> )
Sage sparrow ( <i>Amphispiza belli</i> )
Sage thrasher ( <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> ) *
Say's phoebe ( <i>Sayornis saya</i> )
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> ) *
Vesper sparrow ( <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i> )
Western Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> ) *
Western meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella neglecta</i> )
Yellow warbler ( <i>Dendroica petechia</i> )

\*Denotes BLM special status species

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## Appendix B. Legal Description

All that certain real property situate in the County of Washoe, State of Nevada, described as follows:

**PARCEL 1 [Little High Rock]**

TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 23 EAST M.D.B.&M.

Section 30: Lots 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 25 and 26

Section 31: Lot 4

APN: 066-190-05

All that real property situate in the County of Humboldt, State of Nevada, described as follows:

**PARCEL 2 [*Casey Hot Springs*]**

TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 16: Lots 8, 10, 15; W1/2 SE1/4

Section 21 : N1/2 NE1/4

APNs: 001-521-04, 06, 07, 08, 09

**PARCEL 3 [*Double Hot Springs*]**

TOWNSHIP 36 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 4: Lot 4 of the NW1/4

Section 5: Lot 1 of the NE1/4

APN: 001-521-02

TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 26 EAST, M.D.B.&M.

Section 32: SE1/4 SE1/4

APN: 001-481-05

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## **Chapter 10. Map**

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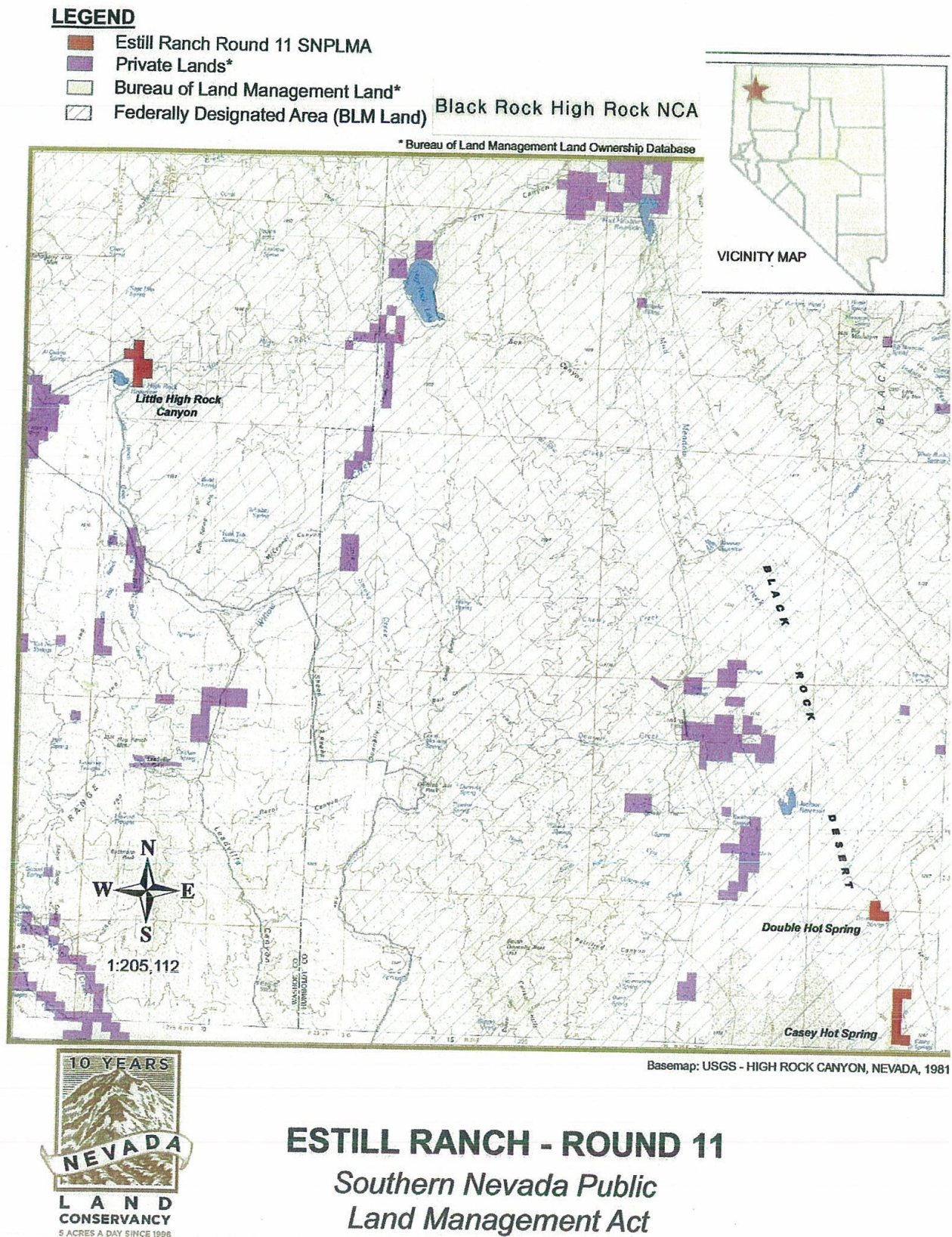


Figure 10.1.